

telephone at home. The dream of linking America together on the information superhighway, a dream of linking all parts of America, urban and rural, together will remain just that, a dream, not a reality, because rural America will be cut off.

The Telecommunications Act directed the FCC to ensure that rates for phone service in rural areas remain reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas. Now, I understand there are details being worked out, but many of the decisions already rendered by the FCC do not bode well for rural States like Vermont.

For instance, the FCC decided the Federal universal service support would be raised only from the interstate revenues of interstate carriers. So what does that do? The FCC places off limits more than half of the retail revenue available from the telephone industry.

Second, the FCC has ruled they would support only 25 percent of the need even in a high-cost rural State like Vermont. This leaves 75 percent of the need to be raised by the States themselves, presumably from the intrastate revenues generated in those States, in other words, to raise the largest amount from the small rural States.

And third, they seem to repeal the high-cost support as we know it.

Let me show you on this chart, Mr. President. This shows a likely result of the FCC's three decisions.

This assumes the States are going to have to make up the support that the FCC now says it will not provide. Let us see what this means. The blue vertical bars show the anticipated State surcharges on intrastate revenues; that is, if they want to make up the difference. The red bars show an alternative approach, which the FCC did not adopt, where all needed support would come from a uniform Federal surcharge on all telephone revenues.

Let me tell you what this means. If they had done what they should have done, almost all States would have paid about a 2-percent surcharge to make up the difference. That is the red line on the chart. Whether you are in the District of Columbia or North Dakota, whether you are in New Jersey or Wyoming, you will be paying roughly the same.

However, instead of doing that, what the FCC has said, to heck with rural States. Instead of keeping a surcharge about the same for everybody, they tell North Dakota they will have to come up with about 33 percent, South Dakota about the same, Wyoming, just under 30 percent, Montana similar to that, New Mexico and Kansas up over about 12 percent. If you are a small rural State, what they are saying is forget about being part of the telecommunication revolution. If you are a small rural State, forget about being told the U.S. Congress has given you a good deal in the Telecommunications Act. You have just got a disconnect

signal. In fact, you probably have to pay for that.

Of the top 15 States, almost all rural States, they can buy with only a rate surcharge of 9 percent. That is money out of pocket. The act requires States to have reasonably comparable rates. Boy, this sounds great. You are from a rural State or from an urban State, roughly comparable rates. Who could disagree? Except what happens, if you are paying a 1- or 2-percent surcharge in one State and in another State a 30- or 35-percent surcharge, you are not roughly comparable, and there is no way these States can compete.

Would it not have made more sense to say every State pays about 2.6, 2.5 percent surcharge? Then everybody would be on an even playing field, whether you are a company in North Dakota or in Vermont, or you are a company in Michigan or Pennsylvania, at least basic costs would remain the same. If you were a homeowner, if you were a renter, if you were in those States, your costs would be roughly comparable.

Under the FCC's proposal, which make no sense at all, many experts predict an increase in the 100 percent to 200 percent range for phone rates in these very rural States. Now, I am one Vermonter who would not stand for that, and I cannot imagine any other Vermonter standing for that.

I think the time will prove these unfortunate predictions correct, as rural phone companies go out of business, the bigger competitors cherry pick the best customers, and the rural areas, you might as well go back to smoke signals, Pony Express, or shouting across the valleys because you will not be able to do it by picking up the phone.

I think the FCC is letting a golden opportunity slip by. I think, Mr. President, we may have given them the opportunity by casting rural areas over the side in that Telecommunications Act. Even tossing them over side, you would have thought the FCC would have put out a net or a helping hand. Instead, it looks like they tied the anchor around their neck as they went by and dropped them into the ocean.

LANDMINE BAN TREATY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, President Clinton announced that the United States would not join nearly 100 nations, including most of our NATO allies, in a treaty to ban antipersonnel landmines.

I want to take a few minutes to respond to the President's decision. First, let me say that President Clinton and I have spoken many times about the landmine issue. I am convinced he wants to see these weapons banned from the face of the Earth. He and I have discussed the horrendous toll of innocent lives that landmines cause, and in speeches at the United Nations he has twice called for a worldwide ban.

President Clinton said, "The United States will lead a global effort to eliminate these terrible weapons and stop the enormous loss of human life." Those were inspiring words. However, as convinced as I am of the President's desire for a ban, I am as convinced that a tremendous opportunity was lost last week. An opportunity that rarely comes in history.

As a USA Today editorial put it, "having blown the best chance ever to negotiate an acceptable international ban on landmines, the Clinton administration now finds itself churning in the wake of world affairs. The United States has joined a few nations, including rogue states like Iran and Iraq, on the outside of a remarkable process."

There are many losers in the administration's last-minute failed attempt to negotiate in Oslo. Unfortunately, the most notable losers were the innocent victims of landmines who the treaty aims to protect. Mr. President, the victims of landmines are almost invariably children and innocent civilians.

Because while the treaty is immensely important for establishing a new norm of conduct, until the United States signs it, there will never be a worldwide ban. There is simply no substitute for the credibility and influence of the United States to bring reluctant nations on board and make sure that violators of the treaty are caught and punished. There is no way to fully stigmatize these weapons and curtail the use, as has been done with poison gas, without U.S. leadership far stronger than we have seen today.

And the tragedy of our country's decision is that it was avoidable. Although the President said his administration had gone the extra mile to find an acceptable compromise in Oslo, I must respectfully and honestly disagree.

Two weeks ago I went to Oslo where I met with representatives of governments, including the United States, and nongovernmental organizations that were participating in the treaty negotiations.

The treaty they adopted was nothing short of a miracle. In less than a year, nations as diverse as our closest European allies who have been major producers of landmines, to Mozambique whose people have been killed and maimed by landmines, joined together in finalizing a treaty that does nothing less than ban the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of a category of weapons that Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman called "a violation of civilized warfare" over a century ago.

I call the Ottawa Treaty a miracle because it was only 11 months ago that Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy launched what is now called the "Ottawa process." At the time, no one knew how many nations would take part or where it would lead, not even Minister Axworthy. It was a bold and courageous leap of faith, and the

same kind of leadership I and so many others hoped to see from the White House last week.

The Ottawa Treaty culminates two decades of failed attempts to deal effectively with the landmine problem. Two decades ago many of the same nations that gathered in Oslo met in Geneva to draft a treaty to address the growing concerns of the effects of landmines on civilian populations. Landmines had been widely used in Southeast Asia, and they were being sown like seed in Afghanistan and Central America and many African countries. Vast areas were being laid to waste with the innocents paying the horrifying price. I have seen victims, all over the world, of these indiscriminate weapons.

My wife is a registered nurse and has visited the hospitals where the amputations take place, where broken bodies are put back together as best can be done in countries where medical care is often rudimentary.

That treaty, however—the Conventional Weapons Convention—utterly failed to achieve its goal. It was doomed to fail because of the fact that landmines are inherently incapable of distinguishing between civilians and combatants, and that fact was never even acknowledged in Geneva, much less addressed. Instead, in diplomatic niceties, by people who would never have to face landmines themselves, they adopted vague limits of how mines could be used. Those limits were then routinely ignored. In the years since then, the devastation inflicted by landmines on innocent people, often the poorest people in the world, has increased dramatically. In fact, Mr. President, it was the widespread recognition of the failure of that treaty which led to the Conventional Weapons Review Conference 2 years ago. Finally, it seemed there could no longer be any excuse for doing whatever was necessary to stop the carnage wrought by landmines.

That was the hope. Unfortunately, the reality was a lot different. Rather than devise a roadmap for ridding the world of these weapons, governments, including our own, fought for the right to use them. The idea of a ban was barely mentioned. The amended protocol, while preferable to the original, did far more to reaffirm the legitimacy of landmines than to stop their use. Once again, governments had failed to act with anything like the decisiveness that was called for.

So it is important to remember that the Ottawa process evolved only after years of failed attempts by governments to solve this problem in the traditional way. There was no shortage of impassioned speeches about the harm landmines were causing the innocent. But the expressions of outrage were qualified with the assertion that the problem wasn't the mines themselves, but other people, always other people, who used them irresponsibly. You would think it was a tea party rather than arms control. And the carnage, of course, continued.

But we hear those same arguments today. The same failed arguments of a decade ago. Today when a Pentagon official was asked about the tens of thousands of American landmine casualties in Vietnam, he said that was no longer relevant because "smart" mines had "solved their problem."

Of course, they have not solved it. Almost no one besides the United States uses those mines. In Bosnia, more than 250 U.N. and NATO soldiers and thousands of civilians have been injured or killed today by the same types of mines used in Vietnam a generation ago.

As I have said so many times, an effective international agreement based on stigmatizing a weapon cannot have different standards for different nations. The importance of this principle cannot be overstated. It is what underlies any international agreement.

When the Princess of Wales spoke about the insidious toll of landmines, she said, "Before I went to Angola, I knew the facts, but the reality was a shock." Unfortunately, the reality that Princess Diana saw was a reality which far too few government officials have experienced, including many people at the Pentagon. When people have gone with me and seen the carnage caused by landmines, they have a new understanding.

A year ago, after the President urged all nations to complete a ban treaty "as soon as possible," it became clear that the administration was not willing to show the kind of leadership that was necessary to turn those words into reality.

Instead, other countries, led by Canada and hundreds of nongovernmental organizations, stepped into the void. In a matter of months we saw the number of nations participating in the Ottawa process exceed 100, including many nations that were producers and exporters and users of antipersonnel mines.

Those nations came together determined to overcome past failures because they knew about those failures. Many had suffered the effects of landmines because of those failures. They came together to do the only thing that could solve the landmine problem—ban the types of landmines that are triggered by an innocent footstep, ban them without exception, ban them without reservation. And they wanted the United States to be part of it. When I was in Oslo I found a genuine desire to try to accommodate the United States, if it could be done without weakening the treaty.

But the administration seriously underestimated the worldwide commitment for a ban. For months, the White House belittled the Ottawa process. Since it wasn't their idea, they refused to take it seriously. And rather than throw the weight of the United States behind Canada to help achieve something unprecedented in history, something that would have taken both courage and imagination, the administration tried to talk other governments out of taking part.

They wasted valuable time by pursuing negotiations in the U.N. Conference on Disarmament even when it was clear that avenue was blocked. They said the United States would only give up its mines if all nations did, knowing that, like the chemical weapons treaty, there is no chance of that happening for decades. And when they finally decided at the 11th hour to go to Oslo, they went with demands that had no chance of being accepted, and little flexibility to negotiate.

Any of the nations in Oslo that have pledged to sign the Ottawa treaty could make a stronger case to continue using these weapons than the world's only superpower. Basically, the United States went to Oslo and said: we are the most powerful Nation on earth, but we can't give up our anti-personnel mines because we have better technology, but you less powerful nations, you should give up your mines.

Well, Mr. President, the Pentagon is, understandably, deeply reluctant to give up a weapon that has some utility—and it does—even if doing so would pressure others to end the suffering of innocent people. Like any government department, the Pentagon's job is to protect its options. It has always resisted giving up weapons, from countermanding General Pershing in the 1920's at the first Geneva convention when he wanted to ban poison gas, to nuclear testing in the 1990's. If a Pentagon official is asked what he or she needs, the answer is always "more." More firepower might mean fewer casualties, so the Pentagon has resisted the pressure to give up antipersonnel landmines.

The President is constantly faced with departments that do not want to cut their budget or eliminate programs. That is why he has the National Security bureaucracy, to make those hard decisions. In the case of weapons of mass destruction like nuclear and chemicals weapons, his advisers have found ways to work closely with the Pentagon to find creative solutions.

But when issue of landmines reached the surface a year and a half ago, nobody in the administration was willing to aggressively challenge and prod the Pentagon into finding a workable solution. Without that prodding, the Joint Chiefs put far more effort into blocking the U.S. from joining the ban than into planning how to live with it—even though there were those in the Pentagon who at least were honest enough to privately point out the fallacies in the assumptions underlying the Pentagon's own arguments.

As recently as a few weeks ago—and the Pentagon did not serve the White House well in this—White House officials were not even aware of the weaknesses in the Pentagon's doomsday predictions about the consequences of removing antipersonnel mines from Korea, or even aware of the fact that the Pentagon was, at least internally, divided over some of the same arguments they had made at the White House.

They did not even have a thorough grasp of the treaty's provisions. Right up until the end, there were those in the administration who were unaware that the treaty effectively grants a twelve-year grace period for removing existing minefields, such as in Korea. Last week, the Secretary of Defense wrote in the *Washington Post* that "millions" of lives could be lost if the U.S. signed the treaty because North Korea might interpret our signing as a loss of resolve and start a war because of it. Good Lord, Mr. President. This is as bad as "the Russians are coming, the Russians are coming" scenario we heard, even as the Russian army was collapsing internally. Not only is that about as far-fetched as any dire Pentagon prediction I have heard yet—and that includes its assessment of the Red Army that was fit to conquer the world—it could not even conquer Chechnya—it ignores the conclusion of every serious Pentagon analyst that a North Korean invasion would be destroyed, with or without antipersonnel landmines, before it could traverse 50 miles down narrow, pre-targeted mountain passes to Seoul. If antipersonnel landmines are going to determine the fate of South Korea, South Korea ought to surrender. But the fact is, South Korea has a far better trained, better equipped army, is better motivated than North Korea, and is backed by the might of the most powerful Nation on earth. A North Korean invasion would be suicidal, and they know it and everyone knows it. A former commander of our forces in Korea says scattering landmines there would impede the mobility of our own forces, and inflict casualties on our own troops.

But it does not even matter, because the other countries in Oslo were prepared to try to accommodate U.S. concerns on Korea. Had the White House not waited until the last minute to get involved, a solution could have been found. In fact, many of us told them that months ago.

Over 60 Members of the U.S. Senate, Republicans and Democrats, including every veteran of combat in the Vietnam war, have signed onto legislation to ban antipersonnel landmines. In fact, Mr. President, the Leahy-Hagel bill would do no more than what Great Britain, Germany, South Africa, France, and a lot of other nations have already pledged to do, over the objections of some of their own armed forces. In fact, it does not go as far because it gives the President broad flexibility on Korea, which the Pentagon has called a unique situation—"the Cold War's last frontier." The Pentagon said they need time to take care of Korea. Our legislation gives them more time than they need.

I was encouraged by the President's statement last week that he wants to work with Congress. I welcome that, and I thank him for the kind words he spoke about my efforts. I really do believe that he wants to see a worldwide

ban on landmines. I have always supported efforts to negotiate an international export ban in the U.N. Conference on Disarmament.

But, Mr. President, the clock is ticking, and there should be no mistake. The Ottawa treaty is the only hope for achieving a comprehensive worldwide ban on these weapons. There is no other treaty. If the United States does not sign in December, we have to find a way to sign at the earliest possible time.

That is not going to happen as long as the Pentagon pretends that a weapon it called an antipersonnel landmine a few months ago, and which the President pledged to ban a year ago, has suddenly, miraculously, overnight become no longer an antipersonnel mine if it's placed near an antitank mine. They tried that in Oslo; they tried to change the definition. It would have invited any nation in the world to use antipersonnel mines—dumb, smart, just average, or any type—indeinitely, as long as they were in the vicinity of an antitank mine. It was a terrible idea and literally a loophole big enough to fly a 747 through.

If the use of antipersonnel mines near antitank mines is what prevents the United States from signing the treaty, then solve it. We run a little Rover around on Mars. If we can do that, we can solve this problem. If the Pentagon had spent the past three years since the President first called for a worldwide ban really trying to solve that problem rather than to keep from having to solve it, the United States might have been able to show the leadership on this issue that the world needs and, frankly, the world wants.

This is not a public relations problem to be managed. This is not about trying to find some way to convince a focus group. It is not a question of valuing the lives of American soldiers more or less than the lives and limbs of innocent civilians. Both soldiers and civilians will benefit from a landmine ban. It is about the one nation on this planet, whose power and influence and moral authority are unmatched, the nation that I am proud to serve in the U.S. Senate. It is about this nation seizing the best opportunity there is ever going to be to deal with a problem that is needlessly plaguing so many countries.

Staying outside this treaty is not an option. We have to be part of it, if not now, then we need to do what needs to be done to become part of it.

I might note, Mr. President, that Japan, which like the U.S. also expressed concerns about the treaty in Oslo, is apparently reconsidering its position and may sign in Ottawa after all. I wrote to their foreign minister saying I hope they do this. It would be extremely significant, as many Asian nations look to Japan for leadership.

President Clinton also spoke of efforts the United States is making to help other nations get rid of landmines,

and to aid the victims. I join him in that. But I remind the President and the Pentagon that each of these efforts was started by the Congress. They are vitally important, and I welcome the President's announcement that he wants to expand them. But even expanding something like the Leahy War Victims Fund is no substitute for putting an end to the use of these weapons.

I want the United States to show the kind of leadership that is expected of the world's leading democracy, the greatest democracy history has ever known. The United States was a founder of the League of Nations and the United Nations. We have been a leading force in every significant humanitarian law treaty and arms control treaty in history. Leadership by definition means taking risks. It means having the faith and courage to seize an opportunity that comes rarely in history and rejecting the conventional wisdom, and taking a dramatic step.

The chemical weapons treaty would not exist had it not been for the United States taking such a step. The nuclear test ban treaty would not exist without our leadership.

The United States showed its capacity for greatness with the Marshall Plan. We didn't say we would rebuild Europe "except for this country or that country." We said all should benefit, including our former enemies. I am proud of what my country did then, and I want to see the same kind of leadership now.

The Ottawa treaty will be signed in December. There is still time for the White House to reconsider. Fourteen Nobel laureates sent a letter to President Clinton last week urging him to reconsider. There is still time to aggressively engage the Pentagon on the technical issues that have prevented the President from agreeing to sign. If we do not have a plan for solving them by December, then get busy and solve them. At least commit to signing it at a future date. That is what the world needs to hear. It is the least we can do.

Mr. President, the Ottawa treaty will set a moral standard for the next century that even those nations who do not sign will ignore at the risk of being condemned as international outlaws. It will be a tribute to those nations who recognize the urgency that this humanitarian crisis demands. The treaty ends the 20th century, the bloodiest in history, in a way in which the world can be justly proud. It is our gift to the next century. The United States should be part of it.

I said in Oslo that my wife and I look forward, with great pleasure, to the birth of our first grandchild at the beginning of next year and, God willing, that child will live most of his or her life in the next century. My prayer is that it will be a century where armies of humanity dig up and destroy landmines and no one puts new ones down.

I ask unanimous consent that the Nobel laureates' letter to the President be printed in the *RECORD*.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 18, 1997.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: We are writing to demonstrate our support of the many other individuals and organizations urging the United States government to sign a treaty for a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel landmines along with 100 other nations scheduled to meet in Ottawa this December.

Mr. President, we ask you to reflect on repercussions of your final decision on this matter. We are aware that you plan to condition your approval of the ban on the inclusion of certain exceptions considered vital to U.S. security interests and in the best interest of military personnel. Consider for a moment the dangerous precedent that would be set if the United States asks for concessions. Indecision by a world superpower is sure to undermine the long effort to reach this ban, only leading to further delays.

It is clear that every additional week of delay will leave hundreds of innocent men, women, and children dead or maimed due to these devices whose military value is highly questionable. The recently publicized 1972 US Army report vividly describes the terrible toll US anti-personnel landmines have taken on its own soldiers during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

We, Nobel Peace Laureates, are joining the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities, named after the renowned humanist and Nobel Peace laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer, and the Connecticut Coalition to Abolish Landmines in the international call to ban landmines. We add our collective voice to that of many other individuals, organizations and governments who strongly support this ban.

As the leader of a major world power, it is in your hands to demonstrate courageous leadership and endorse the comprehensive ban on landmines.

Donald S. Gann, on behalf of American Friends Service Committee, 1947; Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, 1970; Mairead Maguire, 1976; Betty Williams, 1976; Mother Theresa, 1979 (verbal agreement given three days before her death); Adolfo Perez Esquivel, 1980; Lech Walesa, 1983; The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu, 1984; Dr. Gurwarj Mutalik, on behalf of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, 1985; Elie Wiesel, 1986; Oscar Arias Sanchez, 1987; Mikhail S. Gorbachev, 1990; Joseph Rotblat, on behalf of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, 1995; Bishop Carlos Felipe Belo, 1996; Jose Ramos Horta, 1996.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION AND ACCOUNT- ABILITY ACT OF 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after consultation with my distinguished colleague, my dear friend from Vermont, Senator JEFFORDS, I have been authorized to yield back all remaining time for today on S. 830.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time is yielded back.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for his consideration and listening to this long speech. While I have spoken maybe 50 times on this issue on the floor, I thought it was important to put in the RECORD exactly what has happened and why the United States is not on the treaty, but to also implore the President, who I feel does want to see it ban landmines, to take the steps necessary so the United States can be part of this treaty.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT—AMENDMENT NO. 1122

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am here to outline certain changes to my amendment that was accepted as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Act as passed by the Senate. These changes will be submitted to the House-Senate conference committee. My amendment, No. 1122, would block grant funds from several K-12 education programs in the Department of Education and send those funds directly to school districts. These changes have been incorporated into a new draft of the amendment.

The genesis of the changes is a series of discussions with my colleagues in the Senate and other interested parties. While these changes correct minor drafting errors, they do so without changing the overall philosophy of the amendment. The most significant of the changes exclude from the block grant entirely any funds from the Adult Education, Vocational Education, and Rehabilitation Services programs, programs not primarily directed at K-12 education. Other programs excluded from the block grant are: Indian Education, the Inexpensive Book Distribution Program, Arts In Education, Star Schools Program, and Technology Innovation Challenge grants.

Finally, the distribution of bilingual education funds is changed. These funds will be sent to school districts in the same proportion as the funds were distributed in fiscal year 1997, much like title I funds are distributed in the amendment. For example, if a school district were eligible for .25 percent of all bilingual education funds in fiscal year 1997, it will be eligible for the same share in fiscal year 1998.

Mr. President, these changes correct minor drafting errors and incorporate the suggestions of several supporters for minor improvements. These changes, however, do not affect the amendment's overall philosophy, which is to restore the decisionmaking authority for the education of our children to where it belongs; the hands of parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members. I look forward to discussing this issue further with my colleagues during conference committee meetings.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 22, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,378,803,586,241.44. (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-eight billion, eight hundred three million, five hundred eighty-six thousand, two hundred forty-one dollars and forty-four cents)

Five years ago, September 22, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,040,323,000,000. (Four trillion, forty billion, three hundred twenty-three million)

Ten years ago, September 22, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,353,878,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred fifty-three billion, eight hundred seventy-eight million)

Fifteen years ago, September 22, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,107,571,000,000. (One trillion, one hundred seven billion, five hundred seventy-one million)

Twenty-five years ago, September 22, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$437,448,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-seven billion, four hundred forty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,941,355,586,241.44 (Four trillion, nine hundred forty-one billion, three hundred fifty-five million, five hundred eighty-six thousand, two hundred forty-one dollars and forty-four cents) during the past 25 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLEY L. BYRD CELEBRATING HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Charley L. Byrd of Lentner, MO, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on October 23, 1997. Charley is a truly remarkable individual. He has witnessed many of the events that have shaped our Nation into the greatest the world has ever known. The longevity of Charley's life has meant much more, however, to the many relatives and friends whose lives he has touched over the last 100 years.

Charley's celebration of 100 years of life is a testament to me and all Missourians. His achievements are significant and deserve to be recognized. I would like to join Charley's many friends and relatives in wishing him health and happiness in the future.